

Burlington Design Advisory Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Burlington City Council

FROM: Austin Hart, Chair
Development Review Board

DATE: May 12, 2010

RE: Development Review Board

I am pleased to submit this report for the year 2009-2010 to the Council and to the citizens of Burlington. The purpose and charge of the Development Review Board is to ensure the development that occurs within the City complies with provisions of the zoning ordinance. Our major task is to hold public meetings where we hear presentations from applicants and take public testimony and comments on development proposals. We are a quasi-judicial decision making board who either approve or deny such development project requests. Our decisions, unless appealed to the state Environmental Court, are final and constitute a legal record and identify conditions under which a project can proceed to construction.

Our board's membership has evolved over the past year into a representative group of citizens with professional expertise in architecture, engineering, law, education, construction, design, and mortgage finance. Our members are very dedicated to making thoughtful decisions that take into account all concerns raised through a fair and respectful hearing process. We also have alternate members appointed to the Board who are available to sit in during absences or vacancies.

For Fiscal Year 2010, we will have reviewed over 86 agenda items and in all wards of the City; projects ranging from owner-occupied residential to investment, institutional, and commercial buildings. Some major projects reviewed or under review in the past 12 months include: a 59-unit senior housing development, one 36-unit and one 17-unit affordable housing development, a 24-unit multi family housing development, a new downtown hotel/restaurant, a proposed four storey office building facing the waterfront, the conversion of a waste management facility to office/educational, a major renovation of community health facility, and energy retrofit for a middle school, as well as several appeals of administrative decisions regarding zoning violations and permits.

I especially would like to recognize and thank outgoing Board members, Glenn Jarrett and Ellie Kenworthy, who combined have put in four decades of service to the city. In the coming year, the Board hopes to continue in upholding the zoning ordinance regulations that keep the City an exciting and attractive place to live and work.

I thank you for your time.